

BILLERICAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1940.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT:

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. J. Douglas Wells, O.B.E. (Mil).

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS & PUBLIC VACCINATORS:

Dr. Arthur Quennell

Dr. R. Bowesman.

Dr. J. C. Campbell

Pathologist:

Dr. Suckling, 91 Queen Victoria St., London E.C.

Sanitary Inspector: A.L.Ledden, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

Second Sanitary Inspector: R.S.Shears, M.S.I.A.,
A.R.San.I.

Surveyor: H.B.Mayhew, F.I.A.S.

Deputy Surveyor: G.C.Clark, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E.,
M.Inst.M.& Cy.E., F.A.S.I.

Chief Engineering Assistant: H.J.M.Baker,

A.M.Inst.M.& Cy.E.

Building Inspectors: T.G.Gozzett.

T.D.Merrett.

Manager of Sewage Disposal Works: D.M.Betts,

A.M.Inst.S.P.

To the Chairman and Members of the Billericay Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration
my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances
of the Billericay Urban District for the year ending
December, 1940.

In accordance with the instruction of the Ministry of
Health the Annual Report is to be curtailed and is limited
to a record of important alterations, improvements, or
developments which have taken place during the year.

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

FROM 1630 TO 1800

BY
JOHN H. COLEMAN

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

FROM 1630 TO 1700

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 29,217 acres.
Population: 34,390.
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1939 according to the rate books: 12,000.
Rateable value: £201,763.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £750.

POPULATION.

The population for this district for the year 1940 is given as 34,390 by the Registrar General, and on that figure the Vital Statistics have been worked out.

But this figure does not give a real idea of the population for 1940. The figure given by the Food Control Office and the Office which deals with National Registration is over 40,000. At the end of 1940 it was 41,000.

Taking the population figure given by the Registrar General, there is a considerable increase in the Death Rate, namely 15.7 for 1940 as against 12.5 for 1939. The Death Rate for 1938 was 11.79.

I do not know where the Registrar General obtained this population figure. In these times, when every adult and child has to be registered under the National Registration and Food Control schemes, it would not seem ^{to be a} difficult matter to obtain the actual population figure of a district on any given date.

I was not in a position to include the Vital Statistics for the year 1939 in my Annual Report as the return supplied by the Registrar General for that year had not been received. I am inserting the Vital Statistics for the year 1939 as an appendix to this Report.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births: Legitimate	495	240	255
Illegitimate	23	14	9
Total Birth Rate Legitimate & Illegitimate:	14.8		
Still Births:	22	12	10
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births:	40.7		

DEATHS.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (R.G):	15.7	
Puerperal Sepsis:	Nil.	
Other Puerperal casues:	1.	

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

1. All Infants per 1,000 Live Births: 48.2.
2. Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births: 44.4.
3. Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births: 130.4.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages): 54. Rate 1.5.

Deaths from Measles: Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough: Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhea (under 2 years): 4.

Deaths at various ages during 1940.

<u>Age.</u>	<u>No. of deaths.</u>
Under 1 year	30
1 and under 2	6
2 and under 3	2
3 and under 5	7
5 and under 15	13
15 and under 25	11
25 and under 35	13
35 and under 45	50
45 and under 55	117
55 and under 65	172
65 and under 75	159
75 and upwards	
Total Deaths	580

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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH
SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

A. Laboratory Facilities.

The services of the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 91 Queen Victoria Street, London, have been available throughout the year.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, which I referred to in my last Report, and which was set up at Brentwood, was moved from there during the year. To replace this a similar laboratory was set up at St. Andrew's Hospital as a branch of the London Hospital Pathological Department. It is principally for the use of patients in St. Andrew's Hospital, but its services are available in a limited degree for the public health of the district.

B. Ambulance Facilities.

There is one ambulance attached to St. Andrew's Hospital owned by the Essex County Council. This is used primarily and principally for bringing non-infectious cases to St. Andrew's Hospital, and its use is not confined to this district only.

The A.R.P. Service has 9 ambulances stationed in this district. They are used for the conveyance of War casualties to First Aid Posts, and for hospitals, and may also be used for the inter-hospital services.

The two ambulances belonging to the South East Essex Joint Hospital Board are stationed at the Billericay Isolation Hospital. These are used for the conveyance of infectious cases to that hospital, and for the conveyance of infected bedding brought there for disinfection. These ambulances are not used in this urban district alone, but over the whole area of the Joint Hospital Board.

C. Nursing in the home.

No change has been made.

D. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

These are under the control of the County Council.

E. Hospitals.

There are 2 hospitals in the district:

(a) One named St. Andrews Hospital, situated at Billericay, is a Public Assistance Hospital of the Essex County Council and also a sector hospital of the Emergency Medical Services. Its accommodation has been considerably increased since Setp. 1939.

(b) The other is the Infectious Diseases Hospital of the South East Essex Joint Hospital Board and is situated at Gooseberry Green, Billericay. It takes all the infectious disease cases, other than tuberculosis and small-pox, from a large area of South-East Essex. Its accommodation is often over-taxed. It has now to do the work of two hospitals, the other hospital, belonging to the Joint Hospital Board, situated in the Rochford Rural District, having been closed for military reasons since the commencement of the War.

BILLERICAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T 1940.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

Dwelling Houses with respect to defects:-	
under Public Health Acts	280
Housing Acts	496
Dwelling Houses with respect to Overcrowding	20
Premises with respect to Vermin	72
Factories	15
Slaughterhouses, Meat & other Food Shops & Stalls	577
Cowsheds and Dairies	223
Watercourses, Ditches & other nuisance inspections	171
Houses visited with respect to Water Supply & Water Shortage	88
Dwelling Houses with respect to Infectious Disease	91
Shops (Shops Inspected)	163
Premises with respect to sewer connection	1238
Food and Drugs Act 1938	12
Essex County Council Act, 1933 (Ice Cream)	100
Essex County Council Act, 1933 (Tents, vans & sheds)	5
Essex County Council Act, 1933 (Hairdressers' premises)	2
Premises with respect to billeting:-	
Hospital Staff	796
Military personnel	10
Refugees from London and other towns	145
Visits regarding disposal of War Dead	10
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	<u>4514</u>

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year water mains extended in the area were as follows:-

	<u>Yds.</u>
Under guarantee by the Council	896
Not guaranteed by the Council	200
	<hr/>
Total:	<u>1096</u>

During the year 29 premises were connected to guaranteed mains, 3 being connected by the services of notices.

Water samples taken during the year were as follows:-

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Main supply	5	-
Rain Water Wells	2	2
Spring Wells	2	6

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Where the samples were found to be unsatisfactory steps were taken to improve the quality of the water by emptying and cleaning out the wells or by connection to water mains where available.

The summer proved to be very dry but only in two instances were there applications for water to be supplied, and in each case water was provided by means of a tank fitted to the Council's lorry.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912 - 1936.

On 1st April the Council became the Authority for the administration of the Shops Acts, 1912-1936, Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act 1936 and the Employment of Young Persons Act, 1938.

During the year 163 visits were made under the Acts and these were chiefly as the result of an application made by the shopkeepers through the Chambers of Commerce of Wards 3, 4 and 5 for permission to open on Sunday for the sale of certain goods under the provisions of the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936.

In one instance insufficient closet accommodation was found at a shop and the service of a notice resulted in extra accommodation being provided.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936 for the abatement of smoke nuisance.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the area but there are three private pools, one at Buttsbury, Vange (sea water) and Nelson Road, Laindon. No samples of water have been obtained from the pools but no complaints as to the condition of the water have been received.

ERADICATION OF BED BUG.

The disinfection of private houses so infested is the responsibility of the occupiers or owners of such property but the Council gives all assistance as may be necessary. Sprayers are loaned and vermicide (Lethane L 384) is supplied free of charge.

In 2 cases Council Houses were found to be verminous and action taken in both cases resulted in the satisfactory disinfection of the property by Council employees.

Several applications were received from occupiers or owners of private property for assistance in disinfection and in each case assistance and advice were given.

HOUSING.

As the result of the Ministry of Health circular suspending action respecting the demolition of unfit houses under the Housing Act no action was taken during the year requiring the demolition of unfit houses.

During the year 496 visits were made to dwelling houses with respect to defects under the provisions of the Housing Acts and as a result 56 houses were made fit.

No buildings were closed during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The number of registered Milk Producers and Purveyors at the end of 1940 was as follows:-

<u>Wholesale Producers.</u>	<u>Producers & Purveyors.</u>	<u>Retail Purveyors.</u>
51	47	40

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

During the year 223 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies and 12 samples of milk taken for Methylene Blue and Coliform tests and of these samples three were found to be satisfactory and nine unsatisfactory. As regards the unsatisfactory samples, several of these were obtained from one farm and great difficulty was experienced in finding the cause. After repeated experiments, however, the cause was found and the matter righted. In the other cases visits were made to the cowsheds to discover the cause of the bad samples and action was taken where it was found that the requirements of the order were not being complied with.

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining cement and other building materials it has been difficult to enforce the carrying out of improvements to cowsheds, but in 2 instances sheds were modernised.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936-1938.

During the year licences authorising the use of Special Designations in respect of milk retailed were as follows:-

Pasteurised	7
Tuberculin Tested	10
Accredited (Bottling licences)	2
	<u>19</u>

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year 577 visits were made to slaughterhouses, meat and other food shops and stalls. It will be noted that the number of visits was less than in the previous year, this being due to the fact that Government Meat Control came into operation in early February and this resulted in the closing of all slaughterhouses in the area, consequently the majority of the visits were to shops and stalls.

Proceedings were instituted in one instance for the sale of unsound fish and the defendant was fined £3. 0. Od.

During the year the following food was condemned:-

Meat	2,490 lbs.
Fish	273 lbs.
Butter	36 lbs.
Eggs	26 in number.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were 41 houses erected during 1940 of which 31 were provided with water closets and 10 with earth or pail closets. During the same period 51 existing premises were connected to the sewer.

BILLETING.

As a result of the heavy raids on London during the autumn by hostile aircraft several thousands homeless or self-evacuated persons

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came into the area. The work of billeting these people, the issue of Billeting Notices, and the keeping of records, fell on the staff of the Public Health Department, and for a time the whole of the staff were employed wholly in this work to the detriment of ordinary routine duties. In addition to the refugees from the London area, the staff were faced with the problem of billeting 450 refugees from Tilbury, evacuated by the Essex County Council. The refugees were placed in the Wickford Senior School, which was used as a rest centre. Many difficulties were experienced in finding suitable houses for these people, and despite tact, persuasion and hard work, it was found necessary to re-evacuate some of the evacuees to other parts of Essex; the majority were, however, billeted or re-housed in the area.

In addition to the foregoing, many houses in the area were demolished by enemy action and at one period 5 rest centres were in use at the same time, viz. Wickford Senior School, Salvation Army Hall, Wickford, Ramsden Crays School, Laindon School and Pitsea School. The Billeting Officers had a strenuous time and were bombarded with questions, but careful handling of the situation earned praise from the general public, particularly from the persons who unfortunately required help. During the latter part of the year 40 houses were requisitioned, repaired and made habitable and used for re-housing homeless persons; in addition the Billeting Officers arranged for the removal of furniture and effects of the homeless persons into their new homes.

It may be noted from the foregoing report that the decision of the Council to appoint its Public Health staff to carry out the work of billeting was justified.

There was some justification for the Council's action in appointing its Public Health Department to carry out the work of billeting, but now that the organisation for this has been set up, it is hoped that the Council will soon be able to put this work in other hands, and release the Sanitary Inspectors for the many duties which only they with their knowledge can perform.

	Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 onwards
Scarlet Fever.		2	1	3	1	11	4	2	4			
Chicken Pox.		4	3	3	12	20	2	1	2			
Pneumonia.		2				2		1	5	2	3	8
Puerperal Pyrexia.												
Erysipelas.						1		1	4	1		
Diphtheria.	1	4	2	1	2	9	5	2	11	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2											
Cerebro-spinal fever.				1					2			
Paratyphoid B. fever.				1				1				
Measles.	3	2	1	3	2	20	4	7	9	2	1	1
Whooping Cough.	1	2	1			3	1					
TOTALS:	7	16	8	12	17	67	16	15	37	7	5	11

	Scarlet Fever.	Chicken Pox.	Pneumonia. Puerperal Pyrexia.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cerebro-spinal fever.	Paratyphoid B. fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
Vange.	4	4	12		4				3	
Wickford.	2		1	1		1				
Laindon.	3		5	1	7				3	3
L'don Hills.	4									
Crays Hill.		7							2	
Bowers Gifford.									5	
Pitsea.	5		1	2	6	1		1	11	1
Gt. Burstead.		2	2						3	1
Ramsden Heath.		1								
N. Benfleet.	1	1			1					
Ramsden Bellhouse.					1				3	
Fobbing.			1							
Basildon.	1				1					
Nevendon.		1								
Downham.										1
Lt. Burstead.		1								
Billericay.	7	30	7		19	3	2	22	2	
Lee Chapel									1	
Dunton.	1								1	
S. Benfleet.									1	
TOTALS:	28	47	23	6	4	39	2	3	55	8

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES. -----

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1		1		
1-5	1		2	
5-15	2		3	3
15 - 25	5	7		
25 - 35	15	6	1	1
35 - 45	10	4	1	1
45 - 55	2			
55 - 65	3	1		
65 onwards	2			
	<u>40</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>

THE PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The health of the district has remained good during the year 1940. There has been no outbreak of any infectious disease - sporadic cases of all the notifiable diseases have occurred.

Considering the condition which war, and more particularly, enemy action in this country, has produced, this district has cause for satisfaction in the healthy conditions maintained during the year

Although this is not a reception area, a large number of evacuees of all ages have come into the district. It is very difficult to give reliable statistics of these. Sometimes the addition to the district's population has been as high as 10,000. This occurred during the continued enemy action on London, in the autumn months of the year. People arrived in very considerable numbers by train, bus, bicycle, or on foot after each severe raid on London. Most of them who came to this district came from bombed homes in the East of London and from the Boroughs of Barking, Dagenham, East and West Ham, and some from the suburban districts of Essex, such as Tilbury, Ilford and Walthamstow. Many had lost practically all their possessions. It has led to a large degree of overcrowding. There are many houses in this district which formerly housed only one family, but now house two, three, four or five families. This has put a strain on the utility and sanitary services and on the effective supervision of your district by its officers. Your various departments have been called upon to do much extra work under Civil Defence - their staffs have been depleted by the National Emergency - my Sanitary Inspectors have had to spend the greater part of their time in connection with the billeting of the many evacuated persons, official and unofficial. There is a prospect of this being rectified in the New Year and the Sanitary Inspectors released for their own special work. War conditions have added many duties to their peacetime ones, and it has not diminished but rather increased their peacetime ones, particularly those concerned with the supervision of food.

Under the scheme by which so many foods are rationed much care is required. I would pay a tribute to the whole-hearted co-operation of the food retailers with my Department; this has helped to make the working smoother.

The Government offered free immunisation against Diphtheria to all children of the ages 1 -15 years. I have dealt with this in more detail in another part of the Report.

The Government also offered free inoculation against Typhoid to all members of the A.R.P. services. There are 1,000 of these in the district. They were all notified and asked to take advantage of the offer - the response has not been so good as I had hoped, particularly among the Wardens.

Conferences have taken place with the Water Companies which supply this area with a view to working out a scheme whereby the dangers of disease which might arise from damage to water mains and sewers by enemy action should be minimised as far as it is humanly possible to do so. A very satisfactory scheme has been worked out for our district.

A Campaign to advise the Public on the advantages of having all children immunised against Diphtheria was inaugurated during the year 1940.

The Government decided that free immunisation should be offered to all children between the ages of one and fifteen years. At my request this Authority had leaflets printed. These were distributed with the sanction of the Education Authority in all the Schools, each child being given one to take home to its parent or guardian.

The Medical Officers in charge of the Infant Welfare Centres gave their co-operation by distributing these leaflets to parents of children under school age who attend the clinics at these Centres. The County Health Visitors also gave invaluable help by their advice to the parents and the distribution of leaflets. The County Council agreed to let me have the assistance of the Medical Officers in charge of the Welfare Centres in carrying out the immunisation, this offer I accepted gladly, and I find these Medical Officers very gladly give their services.

The Immunisation Clinics are held at the Infant Welfare Centres wherever there is a building provided for these centres. In the case of the Wickford district, the immunisations have been done at the First Aid Post by Dr. Frew.

Up to December 31st the number of applications received from parents or guardians was 1,184
The number of children immunised at that date was 813

This campaign will be carried on very energetically during the year 1941. It is confidently hoped that before the winter of 1941-1942 sets in a very large percentage of the children in this urban district will have been immunised.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified in this district during 1940 was 39. This is a comparatively small percentage of the child population. There was no serious outbreak of Diphtheria in any part of the district, but if this number can be rendered to nil it will be an advantage to the health of the district.

Under the present war-time conditions, in which many people have to live in overcrowded dwellings, any measure which adds to the protection of the population against serious infectious disease is very necessary. The talks given over the B.B.C's system are helping to educate the public in these matters. I anticipate that there will be an increasing demand by parents and guardians of children for this free service for children. In this district there is a large migrating population, and it is difficult to tell what the percentage of the population are children at any ^{one} time.

I would ask all the members of the Authority to help to advertise this Campaign and impress on all their constituents who have children the advisability of accepting this free offer of the Government.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

(SIGNED) J. DOUGLAS WELLS.

C.B.E., M.B.

ANNUAL REPORT 1939.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:	Legitimate	Total.	M.	F.
	Illegitimate	454	240	211
		26	11	15
Total Birth rate, Legitimate & Illegitimate:		13.6		
Still Births		15	10	5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births:		30.3		

DEATHS.

Total.	M.	F.
442	254	188

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 12.5

Estimated population: 35,160.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

1. All infants per 1,000 Live Births: 50.
2. Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births: 41.8
3. Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births: 192.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages): 70.

Deaths from Measles: Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough: 1.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years): 3.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income Statement		Balance Sheet	
1911	1910	1911	1910
100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Notes

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